

The Salem Scoop



the monthly newsletter of Salem United Methodist Church ♦ Morganton, North Carolina

December 2011

Volume 17, Number 12

I remember that Christmas like it was just this past year.

A new toy, called "Laser Tag," had just hit the stores. Every little boy in my school wanted one. And I had it on good authority that Jimmy, the boy who already owned every toy, had one waiting for him under their family Christmas tree. Jimmy had recently examined the shape of the Laser Tag box at Sears. Sure enough, the dimensions of a neatly-wrapped gift – whose label read "To: Jimmy" – matched precisely the dimensions of the box at Sears.

If Jimmy had Laser Tag, then I definitely needed one too!

So I pleaded with my parents. I knew precisely how to state my case to them. If I didn't also have Laser Tag, I reasoned, then poor Jimmy would have no one to play with him.

Then I began waiting. Slowly, as we inched closer to December 25, my mother would put another present or two under the Conforti family Christmas tree. One label read, "To: Michael." Another read, "To: Marianne." I waited for a gift with my name on it. Finally, it appeared! Only one problem remained, namely the box's size. It was entirely too tiny to fit Laser Tag!

I kept on waiting.

Waiting is not easy for a young child, especially during those dreary December days. The smell of freshly-baked cookies helped, especially the ones my Grandma made. I would spend many of my afternoons after school with her.

One day, while trying to wait patiently, I found myself snooping around Grandma's house. I wandered around, happening upon a bedroom closet whose opened door enticed me to look closer. Once inside, I found clothes, hats, storage boxes, a yardstick, and an old abandoned fish tank.

But another box sat inside that closet: Laser Tag! I immediately thought, "Wow – Grandma got me exactly what I wanted! So if Mom gets Laser Tag too, then I will have two!"

I quietly put the Laser Tag box back, giving the appearance that no one was rustling through the closet.

On Christmas morning, there was a gift whose label read "To: Mark." And its dimensions matched the Laser Tag box's exactly. Mom and Dad generously got me the gift I had wanted! I soon realized, however, that Grandma did not get me Laser Tag. Instead, she was just hiding my parent's gift for me.

I should have been thankful for receiving a fantastic gift (the one I wanted, no less), yet I was inconsolably disappointed. I greedily wanted two.

One could chalk up this Christmas memory to mere childishness. I wonder, however, how many of us adults still have some "growing up" to do.

As we wait, as we inch closer to December 25, remember that we already have received so much. What more could we possibly want to make this Christmas perfect?



Keep These In Your Prayers



Winfred Garrison	Alvin Roper
Charles Whiteside	Joe Roper
Grant Causby	Betty Gibbs
Ethel Ledbetter	Carrie Jones
Rick Pruett	Edward Shuping
Obie Carswell	Elsie Roper
Adell Franklin	Mabel & Johnny Hoke
Lorece Wakefield	Leila Garrison
Ruth Anne Beaver	Pat Martin
Carol King & Family	Betty Bunch
James Hardy	Ben Franklin
Philip & Mitzie Wilson	Clayton & Wanda Johnson

Jeannie Tyhurst,
Dawn Grindstaff & Family
Portia Smith

December Celebrations

Anniversaries

19 Tom & Jean Jarrell
20 Joe & Lynda Woody
23 Troy & Joan Patton
29 Wynn & Lora Whitener

If we have missed your celebration or have it listed incorrectly, please contact the church office. Thank you.

Birthdays

1 Danielle Wilson	18 Stanley Coffey
3 Kevin Waldroup	18 James Key
4 Connor Wellman	19 Michael Murdock
6 Olivia Lehn	19 Alex Mangum
6 Christina Benfield	20 Robin Key
6 Wes Bunch	20 Lexus Waldroup
7 Carrigan Causby	23 Mary Hoke
7 Catherine Causby	24 Maelea Whisnant
8 Thomas Simmons	26 Sue Bunch
10 Fred Horton	27 Edith L. Dale
13 Dawn Pearson	28 Alexandria Luckadoo
13 Nicole Mull	29 Eric Carswell
13 Bob Harbour	29 Lynda Freshour
14 Marshall Faris	29 Robert A. Pruett
14 Lena Cloninger	30 Elizabeth Causby
15 Angela Miller	31 Christopher Ross





Give An Enduring Gift

With these special weeks, we celebrate the Gift of the Christ Child. Because we receive so much through Jesus, we feel compelled to give.

One way that you can give an enduring gift — one that will last long and make a significant impact for many people — is to give a new window for Salem United Methodist Church’s Sanctuary Building.

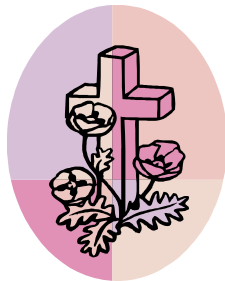
The Trustees and Administrative Council see the benefits of installing new windows for the classrooms and hallways:

- improved energy efficiency
- enhanced beauty
- better hospitality

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Opal Woody by:

- Alan & Joann Byrd
- Charles & Dian Goodnight
- Mrs. Sexton Dale
- Norman & Doris Garrison
- Willie & Mary Ann Propst
- Cary Clark & Lisa Propst
- Charles & Leota Garrison
- Norman & Beulah Duckworth
- Bob & Pauline McGhinnis
- Bruce & Kay Pollard



In Memory of John Obie Carswell:

- Charles & Leota Garrison
- Fred & Kathryn Duckworth
- Bruce & Kay Pollard

In Memory of Harry Ingram , Joseph & Ethel Whitener & Beth Henderson by

- Doris Ingram

In Memory of Linda Westcott & John Obie Carswell by

- Charles & Dian Goodnight.

In Memory of Derlene Brittain by:

- Mrs. Sexton Dale
- Margaret Carswell
- Bob & Pauline McGhinnis

In Memory of Charla Young & John Carswell by

- Willie & Mary Ann Propst &
- Cary Clark & Lisa Propst.

In Memory of Bennett Greene by

- Fred & Kathryn Duckworth.



Sundays of Advent

November 27	<i>Re-Gift Hope</i>
December 4	<i>Re-Gift Joy</i>
December 11	<i>Re-Gift Peace</i>
December 18	<i>Re-Gift Love</i>

Re-Gift Christmas

During this blessed season, we love to give and receive gifts. Sometimes we receive gifts that were already once given. And we may very well give gifts that were first gifts for us. In recent years, people call this “re-gifting.”

Of course, the greatest, most wonderful gift of all is God’s presence with us: Jesus Christ!

We continue to receive this precious Gift, yet not for our own benefit alone. We are called to give away the Gift!

This year, let’s *Re-Gift Christmas!*

Join us on Sunday mornings to hear more of

Rev. Mark Conforti’s sermon series

Christmas Eve & Day

Saturday, December 24

4:00 pm or 11:30 pm

Come hear the ancient story about our Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem. We will sing traditional carols and enjoy the glory of this holy night in worship. Both times are Candlelight Services.

Sunday, December 25

10:00 am – 10:45 am

We will have this one gathering on Christmas morning (no Sunday School) to worship the Christ Child. Wear your favorite pajamas to worship! And children are invited to bring their one favorite toy for a special “Blessing of the Toys.”



Please plan to attend the choir’s presentation of this year’s cantata

Night of Miracles

On

Sunday, December 18th at 7 pm.

The choir has worked long and hard on this presentation that will be sure to add meaning to your Christmas celebrations this season.

Mark Your Calendar

For more information concerning these events, please contact the church office at 433-6600

United Methodist Women Day Circles

Meet @ 7 pm on Thursday, Dec. 1st.

Live Nativity

Sunday, December 4

6:00, 6:30, 7:00, & 7:30 pm

Christmas Program

Sunday, December 11

6:00 pm

Youth Christmas Party

Friday, December 9

7:00 pm

Kids Klub: Carols, Cookies, and Lights!

Friday, December 16

6:00 pm

Breakfast With Santa

Saturday, December 17

9:00 am

Choir Cantata

Sunday, December 18

7:00 pm

Good Grief: A Service of Remembrance

Monday, December 19

7:00 pm



Christmas Card Delivery

Are you tired of that yucky taste of stamps???

Let our Youth and Young Adults deliver your Christmas cards to church members! Place your cards in the basket on the organ. The cards will be delivered to Sunday school classes and before worship services. Donations for the Youth can also be left in the basket, and will be greatly appreciated!!



- Nursery Volunteers -

If you are unable to serve in the nursery as scheduled, please contact Joyce Gibson or the church office as soon as possible. Thank you.

Dec 04 ♦ Mary Allen Conforti & Linda Wilson

Dec 11 ♦ Holly Underwood & Edith Dale

Dec 18 ♦ Rita Russ & Raven Key

Dec 25 ♦ tba

♦

- Children Church Volunteers -

If you are unable to serve in the Children's Church as scheduled, please contact Dawn Wellman or the church office as soon as possible. Thank you.

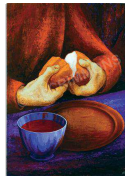
Dec 4 ♦ Dawn Wellman

Dec 11 ♦ Debbie Johnston

Dec 18 ♦ Rebecca Shuping

Dec 25 ♦ Candy Yelton

♦

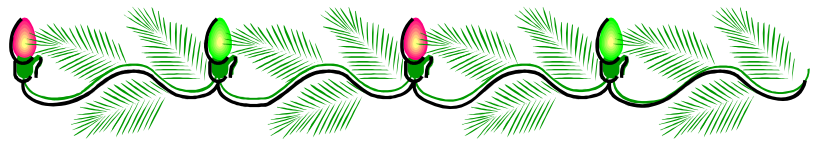


CHRIST BREAD

You are invited to attend the December meeting of Christ Bread on December 13th at 11 am.

We will be playing "Dirty Santa" so bring a \$10 wrapped gift if you would like to participate.





UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS – DECEMBER 2011

The Salem United Methodist Women’s unit continues to be in mission for women, children, and youth around the world. The **December hands-on mission opportunity is items for the Pregnancy Care Center.** A baby shower will be held during our Christmas dinner. Please bring your baby items (unwrapped) for distribution to the center. The mothers of the babies really do appreciate our gifts!

I hope everyone brought their Christmas shoebox to the church for delivery to the Boone warehouse. Thank you for your participation in this worthwhile project. Many children will have smiles on their faces during the Christmas Season!

Hostesses for **December 1st** (7:00 pm) meetings are as follows:

Cora OraEdith Dale
Mary AliceRobin Key
Sadie RosemaryRebecca Shuping

The Lois Velna Day Circle will meet **December 20** at 11:00 am Kay Pollard

Bring a snack food to share at lunch.

All ladies are invited to join the United Methodist Women If you have mission work in your heart, come and be a part of our mission team.

Our Christmas Dinner has been scheduled for Monday, December 12 at 6:00 pm at Friday Friends Restaurant. All UMW member and their families are invited to this year-end get-together. Don’t forget to bring your baby items to be donated to the pregnancy Care Center. This is a **perfect time** for ladies not members of our unit to become members!

Thank you for your support and participation during our Mission Bazaar the first of November. Over \$9,000 was raised for mission! Adelia Mace was the recipient of the quilt. We still have pecans and a couple of packs of country ham for sale.

Lynda Woody, President Salem UMW

The Purpose of the United Methodist Women

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the Global Ministries of the Church.

Finances



General

Balance

Beginning Bal(9/25/11)	\$32,700.94
Deposits	24,812.00
Distributions	21,784.46
Ending Balance. (11/28/11)	35,728.48

Dear Salem United Methodist Church Family,

We so enjoyed the luncheon and presentation. Your kindness and continued concern for the students and staff of Salem Elementary School is very heartwarming.

Thank you for being a very special part of our school!

Sincerely

Teachers of Salem School.



Dear Friends of Salem UMC

I just wanted to take a few moments to thank you all for welcoming me into your midst this year. I so enjoy talking with each of you when you stop by or call the office. You are all so special and I hope and pray that you each have a blessed Christmas and New Year.

I also wanted to take a moment to recognize that many within this congregation have been touched by the loss of loved ones this past year. I lost my mother 18 months ago and I know what you are going through this holiday season. It's not easy. I am told that it gets easier, but I am not there yet. I do want to share with you a poem that I found last Christmas that helped me get past the holidays. I hope it helps you as well. May God keep you in His care.

Blessings

Tammy Severt

Administrative Assistant.

My First Christmas In Heaven

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below

With tiny lights, like heaven's stars reflecting on the snow

The sight is spectacular! Please wipe away your tear, for I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear

But that music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here.

I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring. For its beyond description to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me. I see the pain in your heart.

But I am not so far away; we're really not that far apart;

So be happy for me, my family. You know I hold you dear. And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

Please love and keep each other, as our Father said to do.

For I can't count the blessings or love He has for each of you.

So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away that tear. 'Cause remember I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

Salem United Methodist Church
1206 Salem Road
Morganton, NC 28655
(828) 433-6600

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Morganton, NC

Return Service Requested

Wonderful Wednesdays

Meal at 6 pm with classes to follow

Choir Practice—7:30 pm

United Methodist Men

The UMM meet the 1st Sunday of each month @ 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

United Methodist Women

- Evening Circles meet 1st Thurs. of each month @ 7:00 pm.
- Day Circle meets the 3rd Tues. @ 10:00 am.

Deeper Water—Wednesday Morning Bible Study 10-11:30 am.
Launch into deeper water with us.

Christ Bread— Meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at 11 am

Intercessors Prayer Group—Meets each Tuesday @ 6:30 pm.

Praise & Worship—A service is held the first Sunday of each month @ 7:00 pm. Please make plans to attend. ***“It Could Change Your Life.”***

Kids Klub— Meets the last Friday night of each month.

United Methodist Youth (6-12th grade)—Meet each Sunday @ 5:00 pm. Other activities as scheduled.

Sunday Worship

*Contemporary Worship 9:00 AM

*Sunday School 9:45 AM

*Traditional Worship 11:00 AM

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Mark Conforti, Pastor

Erica Miracle— Director of Children & Youth

Virginia Robinson, Director of Music

Sue Bunch, Pianist

Tori Cole, Congregational Care Visitor

Tammy Severt, Administrative Assistant